

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND TDM

DO

- **Examine your personal feelings and awareness about domestic violence**
- **Recognize the reality of domestic violence in many of the families we serve**
- **Ensure you get formal DV training for self, and advocate for all agency staff to receive**
- **Identify behavioral (verbal and nonverbal) and physical cues by meeting participants which could indicate domestic violence**
- **Be alert and responsive to threats, intimidation and anger from the perpetrator during meetings, however subtle**
- **When possible, evaluate who will be present during the TDM meeting and determine your response in advance**
- **Assess the safety of all participants (especially the survivor) both during and after the TDM meeting**
- **Create a climate in which the survivor can speak honestly and safely**
- **Know a range of options for managing the meeting, i.e. breaking, separating, telephone conferencing, written communication etc.**
- **Remember: the best way to keep children safe is to keep the non-offending parent safe**
- **Ask what the adult survivor needs—listen**
- **Be respectful, supportive and empowering of the adult survivor**
- **Dialogue around safety planning with adult survivor for self and children**
- **Assess and provide for concrete and immediate needs (e.g. rent, transportation)**
- **Consider all resources and be creative**
- **Ensure planning holds the perpetrator responsible and accountable**
- **Develop collaboration with DV experts. Inform DV advocates of the agency's TDM process and ask for their assistance in training, attendance and identifying resources**

DON'T

- **Allow blaming and/or shaming of the adult survivor**
- **Believe the only way to provide safety is to remove victims from the home**
- **Violate any protective/court orders**
- **Have preconceived plans or decisions for DV situations**

